

LOUISIANA TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

USDA CONFERENCE ROOM

ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA

SEPTEMBER 12, 2007

RECORD OF AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Steve Carmichael, NRCS State Resource Conservationist, opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m., and welcomed the meeting participants. (See attendance list attached.) Carmichael introduced the new State Conservationist, Kevin Norton. Norton introduced himself to the committee. Each member introduced themselves to the committee. Carmichael reviewed the agenda and commented on the highlights of items to be discussed.

Copies of the last committee meeting minutes were reviewed. The minutes were approved as recommended by the committee.

A meeting to discuss adding an incentive practice for environmental benefits provided by crawfish farming operations has been scheduled for September 25, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. in the USDA Training Room with the Farm Bureau, Crawfish Industry, NRCS, and any committee members to discuss this matter.

♦ EQIP FY 07 PROGRAM REVIEW/FY-08 PROGRAM

Leslie Michael, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, gave a FY 2007 EQIP program update. The percentage of state allocation obligated funds for General EQIP is 99.2 percent and Ground and Surface Water is 99.6 percent.

Michael discussed the eligible practice changes for the FY 2008 EQIP Program.

Copies of the last subcommittee meeting minutes were reviewed. In reviewing the ranking tool, question number 6, are the offered acres within a parish listed as Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species Habitat and the EQIP contract will include practice(s) that will benefit the habitat for the identified T&E species?
Yes = 20 pts.

The subcommittee recommended to the STAC to amend the Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species Habitat List to include the candidate species



potentially impacted by EQIP practices to be incorporated by using the High Priority Species List.

STAC recommendation:

- ☐ The consensus of the full STAC recommends to amend the Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species Habitat List to include the candidate species potentially impacted by EQIP practices to be incorporated by using the High Priority Species List.

In the ranking question number 10, is the applicant currently participating in the Master Farmer Program? (Includes Master Farmer, Cattleman, Dairyman, etc.) (Reference the LSU AgCenter Participant List) Yes = 20 pts.

STAC recommendation:

- ☐ The consensus of the full STAC recommends amending "... (Includes Master Farmer, Cattleman, Dairyman, **add Tree Farmer**, etc)..."

STAC recommendation:

- ☐ The consensus of the full STAC recommends approving the FY 2008 EQIP Handbook and posting it to the Louisiana NRCS web site.

STAC recommendation:

- ☐ The consensus of the full STAC recommends approving the FY 2008 EQIP Ranking Tool.

◆ LONGLEAF PINE INITIATIVE

John Pitre, NRCS Wildlife Biologist, discussed the Louisiana longleaf pine initiative. The initiative is to restore longleaf pine native grass ecosystem on historically longleaf pine in Louisiana using EQIP, WHIP, and non-governmental funding provided by the Wild Turkey Foundation (WTF). Five hundred acres of land in Louisiana were enrolled under this initiative in FY 2007. It is proposed to continue this effort in FY 2008 with an enrollment goal of 1,000 acres if WTF can secure additional funding.

♦ **PROGRAM UPDATES WRP CSP**

Leslie Michael, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, discussed the WRP Program. Total offers were 593; 589 total recorded easements for a total of 185,485 acres restored.

Michael gave a CSP program update. There will be training in Indianapolis for all the states and an anticipated sign-up in 2008.

♦ **PROGRAM PAYMENT SCHEDULE**

Steve Carmichael, NRCS State Resource Conservationist, reported on 2008 the EQIP Payment Schedule. The payment schedule will be posted in the field office technical guide.

Next Meeting Date – No specific meeting date was set. Members will be notified when the date is scheduled.

11: 40 a.m. – Meeting Adjourned

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LIST OF ATTENDEES

Kevin D. Norton, USDA-NRCS
Steve Carmichael, USDA-NRCS
Leslie Michael, USDA-NRCS
Cheryl Turbeville, USDA-NRCS
Ed Giering, USDA-NRCS
John Pitre, USDA-NRCS
Gary Eldridge, USDA-RD
Mike Olinde, LDWF
Dwight Landreneau, LCES
Stephen Minvielle, LCFA
Jess Barr, LCPA
Jeff Durand, LRGA
Nick Smith, DU
Jan Boydstun, LDEQ
Christy Rogers, LDEQ
Ernest Girouard, LSU AgCenter
Bryan LeBlanc, LSU AgCenter